

Homework 1 - OSPD F'25

Assignment 1: Building a Mail Client API Server

Making Our Components Usable

In Homework 0, you built the core logic of our mail client as a set of Python packages. However, these components can only be used by other Python code that imports them directly. There is currently no way for an end-user, a web browser, or another application to interact with the system over a network.

This assignment is about creating a **service** that exposes the functionality of your mail client to the outside world via a REST API. This is the critical step that transforms your Python library into a usable, interactive application.

What is a Service?

In this course, we make a crucial distinction between a **component** and a **service**:

- A **Component** is a unit of **code organization and packaging**. It is a self-contained, installable Python package (e.g., a wheel) that exposes its functionality through a public API of classes and functions. Other Python code interacts with it directly via import statements. Your `gmail_client_impl` is a component; it's a library that another part of a Python application can use.
- A **Service** is a unit of **deployment and runtime execution**. It is an independently running process that exposes its functionality over a network protocol, typically HTTP. You do not import a service; you communicate with it by making network requests to specific endpoints (e.g., `GET /messages`). The service owns its own process and memory space.

The key difference is the boundary of interaction:

Component Boundary: A function call within the same process (`my_client.get_messages()`).

Service Boundary: A network call between different processes (`requests.get("http://localhost:8000/messages")`).

Learning Goals

- Understand the difference between a library/component and a network service.
- Design and implement a clean RESTful API using FastAPI.
- Containerize an application using Docker.
- Write unit and integration tests for a web service, mocking the underlying components.

Build a FastAPI Service

Your team will add a new component to your workspace: a FastAPI server that acts as a web-accessible interface for your mail client.

Create a new, self-contained Python package named `mail_client_service` inside the `src/` directory.

Requirements:

1. **pyproject.toml:** The new component must have its own `pyproject.toml` file.
2. **Workspace Integration:**
 - Add the new component to the `[tool.uv.workspace].members` list in your root `pyproject.toml`.
 - The `mail_client_service` will depend on your `gmail_client_impl` and `gmail_message_impl` packages. These should be declared as workspace dependencies.
3. **FastAPI Application:**
 - Inside your new component, create a FastAPI application.
 - This application should use your existing `mail_client_api.get_client()` factory to get a client instance. **Do not re-implement any logic.** Your service should only be a thin wrapper around the components already built.
4. **API Endpoints:** Your service must expose (at a minimum) the following RESTful endpoints:
 - GET `/messages`: Fetches a list of message summaries.
 - GET `/messages/{message_id}`: Fetches the full detail of a single message.
 - DELETE `/messages/{message_id}`: Deletes a message.
 - ... other ideas?
5. **Testing:**
 - **Unit Tests (`src/mail_client_service/tests/`):** Write unit tests for your API endpoints. These tests **must mock the `mail_client_api.Client`**. You are testing your FastAPI logic (request handling, response codes, data serialization), not your Gmail client.
 - **Integration Tests (`tests/integration/`):** Add a new integration test that starts the FastAPI server and makes a real HTTP request to it, verifying that the service correctly calls the underlying `GmailClient`.
 - Some sort of E2E test maybe?

Extra Credit Opportunities

For teams who complete the core assignment, you can extend your project in the following ways. These are not required but offer a chance to explore more advanced topics.

1. **Containerize the Service (Docker):**
 - Create a `Dockerfile` in the root of your project.
 - The `Dockerfile` should correctly build and run your FastAPI service.
 - Provide instructions in your `README.md` on how to build and run the Docker container.

2. Deploy the Service Online:

- Deploy your containerized service to a cloud platform (e.g., AWS, Google Cloud Run, fly.io, etc.).
- Provide the public URL to your running service in your final submission.
- **Note:** This is a significant challenge that involves managing cloud resources and secrets.

3. Design an Advanced API for AI Integration (MCP):

- Think about the "intelligent assistant" goal. What API endpoints would an AI agent need?
- Design and implement new endpoints that go beyond basic CRUD, such as:
 - `POST /messages/summarize`: An endpoint that takes a list of message IDs and returns an AI-generated summary.
 - `GET /insights`: An endpoint that analyzes the last 20 messages and returns key topics or sentiments.

Timeline and Review Process

idk yet